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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 003827

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI, LONDON FOR TSOU, PARIS FOR ZEYA

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SUBJECT: FM TO RAISE IRAQ, IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM, AND
KUWAITI-IRANIAN MARITIME BOUNDARY IN UPCOMING VISIT TO IRAN

REF: KUWAIT 2548

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) The Ambassador met August 27 with Foreign Minister Shaykh Dr. Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah at the latter's invitation to discuss the FM's one-day visit to Iran on August 28. The FM said that he would raise three "issues of concern" with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad -- Iraq, the Iranian nuclear program, and the disputed Kuwaiti-Iranian maritime boundary -- and that he welcomed U.S. views on these matters. The FM mentioned that he would "congratulate" Ahmadinejad on his election and would invite him to visit Kuwait. The Ambassador provided points received from Department emphasizing continued U.S. support for EU-3 efforts. (Note: Earlier in the day, the EU-3 representatives met with the FM. In addition to the standard points tracking our own, the British Ambassador advised the Ambassador that the EU-3 told the FM that there would be no EU "fudging" on the issue of uranium conversion. End note.)

Iraq

12. (C) On Iraq, the FM said he did not expect the new Iranian government to change its policy, but he would nonetheless encourage Ahmadinejad to use Iranian influence to help stabilize the situation in Iraq, which was currently "a major item of concern" to Kuwait. He confided to the Ambassador that Kuwait was also trying to convince "people we have contact with" in Iraq to help secure the situation in the country.

Iran

13. (C) Regarding Iran's nuclear program, the FM said Kuwait was "very concerned" about the presence of a nuclear reactor in the Gulf and the possibility of a nuclear accident with catastrophic environmental ramifications. The Ambassador argued, however, that of greater concern was the possibility of a nuclear-armed state emerging in the Gulf. The Ambassador added that the international community needed to do everything it could to delay Iran obtaining nuclear weapons, given Iran's demonstrated determination to obtain this capability.

14. (C) The FM asked if the provision of safe nuclear technology would prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons in the short term. The Ambassador stressed that Iran, under every government, has demonstrated a clear determination to develop a nuclear bomb and therefore acquiring safe nuclear technology did not appear to be its priority. The FM said he did not dispute the fact that the current Iranian government wanted nuclear weapons, but that Kuwait believed the best tack to pursue was to argue to Iran that if it really wanted nuclear technology for peaceful purposes it should accept the EU-3 deal, which would ensure Iran had access to the most advanced, safest nuclear technology. The FM concluded that he would present the Gulf countries' concern about Iran's nuclear program to Ahmadinejad. The FM also mentioned that he met with the EU-3 ambassadors the morning of August 27, but did not elaborate on their conversation.

Kuwaiti-Iranian Maritime Boundary

15. (C) Regarding the disputed Kuwaiti-Iranian maritime boundary, the FM said he would suggest to Ahmadinejad that the two countries reconvene bilateral meetings to negotiate a resolution to the boundary issue.

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